

## The Weather

Generally cloudy to-day and tomorrow.  
Details on page 12.

NO. 5324

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1921. TWENTY PAGES

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DAY—this morning.

# IRISH WAR HERO BACKS GRIFFITH IN TREATY FIGHT

Battle of Personalities Is  
Evident in Debate  
On Ratification.

DE VALERA LEADS  
PACT OPPONENTS

Request for Secrecy on  
His Alternative Is  
Refused.

DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—A battle royal was waged today in the public session of Dail Eireann for the soul and body of Ireland. It was a battle of personalities, and never were more apparent the differences in Irishmen and Irish temperaments than today.

The men who spoke for ratification of the treaty were plain, cold, businesslike men who marshaled their facts with no betrayal of passion, though the fire of patriotism burned as freely, if not as brightly, as in the souls of the antirratificationists, who displayed passion, fire, anger and hatred, and in one case at least the speaker rose to heights of real eloquence.

Proceedings Are Orderly.  
This legislation of farmers and men from small country towns has whipped itself into shape in a wonderful manner in its week of secret sessions. The first open session of Dail was a trial to both the speakers and spectators. Today it was as orderly an assembly as the mother Parliament herself, and the speaker had an easy task.

The only interruption came from Eamonn de Valera, who insisted once or twice in interposing when Arthur Griffith was speaking, and who seemed unable to forget that he is a potential leader and no longer a school teacher.

The session opened a half hour later than the appointed time. The leaders lined up as before, Eamonn de Valera, Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins, who sat in the center of the front bench to the left of the speaker. On the other side was Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins and Robert Barton, while in the body of the hall was Dick Mulcahy, the redoubtable head of the Irish Republican army who is supporting Griffith.

Fighting Hero Backs Griffith.  
In this connection a dramatic surprise was sprung this morning when Eamonn de Valera, the famous blacksmith of Ballinacree, who is the hero of the Irish army, took the floor as the seconder of Griffith's motion for the ratification of the treaty and speaking for the fighting men declared that they were satisfied.

The first sensation was sprung when Speaker MacNeill announced that De Valera had requested that the alternative treaty which he had presented in the secret session should be treated as a confidential document and not be referred to in public debate. Griffith immediately protested, declaring that he would not agree to concealing from the people the alternative to ratify and he flatly refused to be bound by De Valera's request. It was evident from the tone of this interchange that the bitterness between the leaders had increased rather than diminished by the secret debate.

Griffith Shows Sincerity.  
The motion for ratification by Griffith was made in a plain businesslike speech, in level tones and with little fire. Mr. Griffith is a trick orator but he convinced by the plainness of his statements and his evident sincerity of purpose. In this he is in contrast to De Valera who is at all times a passionate orator but who often fails to convince by over-enthusiasm. Griffith, with his fighting chin firmly set, struck out with an absence of gesture that impressed one that he is a man who had made a passionate bargain and who was determined to see his bond honored. He emphasized the fact that he had taken the responsibility, which De Valera had refused, not only for the negotiation of the treaty but for the war when De Valera was in America.

Backs Up Signatures.  
"When we went to London we undertook the hardest task ever laid on the shoulders of men," he said. "Other men refused to go, but other men refused to go, but we took the responsibility at London, and we took it here in Dublin. I signed the treaty. I fully believe that it is honorable for Ireland, and by it I am going to stand, and every man with a scrap of honor who signed it will also stand. If I am to stand in the dock, it is by the Irish people that I will be judged. We are their servants and not their masters. Some seem to think that I am confident that 95 per cent will hold that this treaty is good enough."

"It has been said that we compromised our republicanism, and also that the man who won the war was a traitor. I am not a traitor. I am a man who has been signed voluntarily and not as an admission of defeat."

Resuming, Griffith said: "What we bought back was the evacuation of Ireland by British troops; we brought back an Irish army; we brought back full fiscal control, equality with all the nations in the British commonwealth, an equal voice in foreign affairs, and peace, not war."

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# Volcanic Ashes Cover Wide Area in South Argentina

Layer of Dust Three or Four Inches Thick  
Spreads Over Country and Reaches  
Buenos Aires—Source Unknown.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 19.—Volcanic ashes, which have been reported to be falling over large areas of Argentina from an unknown source since Thursday, reached Buenos Aires on Sunday. Although the fall here was so sparse that the unusual quantity of fine dust in houses and offices this morning was attributed generally to the wind which has been blowing for several days, the volcanic nature of the ashes was clearly apparent when seen on the vegetation on the outskirts of the city.

The ashes clinging to the plants had the consistency and color of cigar ashes.  
An interesting feature of the phenomenon was that although the ash had traveled about 700 miles northeast, whence they were first reported and were plentiful enough to cover many miles in South Argentina with a layer three or four inches thick, the identity of the volcano had not yet been established, and no disastrous outbreak was reported from the volcanic region of South Chile.  
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# JOB CONFERENCE MAKES 1,500,000 MORE POSITIONS

School Contracts Since  
Unemployment Parley  
Total \$20,553,250.

Figures made public yesterday by the President's conference on unemployment show that an enormous amount of school construction is under way and that a larger additional amount has been authorized to give immediate relief to the unemployed. According to the National Education Association, new school buildings are going up, or contracts about to be let, to the amount of \$20,553,250, which will provide much needed seating capacity for 36,371 pupils. Reports from nearly every State indicate that building is being speeded up.

The Department of Commerce called upon the educational leaders among the first to help relieve unemployment. Not only was asked for the jobs, but by means of a program of school building, but a campaign was started by school children to find the millions of small jobs their parents might have—chores about the farm, buildings to be cleaned, fences mended, clothes made over, and scores of similar tasks occurring to the active minds of youngsters.

Many Buildings Needed.  
Commenting upon these figures, Colonel Arthur Woods, chairman of the committee on civic and emergency matters, said: "Hundreds of new school buildings are needed in every State. Hundreds of thousands of school children in the leading cities are in school only half time for want of seating space. Other hundreds of thousands are seated in buildings whose light and sanitation are a menace to health. Millions are in buildings ill suited to the requirements of education. As in the case of the army and navy, many such buildings added to the larger building programs of the cities can be made to create a great tide of employment which must certainly mean aid to times for the nation and its people."

Some of the States report extensive school building programs as follows: Pennsylvania, \$10,000,000; New York, \$60,000,000; California, \$20,000,000; Maine, \$1,000,000; Kentucky, \$1,420,000; South Dakota, \$2,730,000; Utah, \$800,000; Arizona, \$1,321,000; Connecticut, \$3,789,000; Delaware, \$400,000; Florida, \$750,000; Georgia, \$1,000,000. Not included in figures already given but indicated future work.

Jobs for 1,500,000.  
"One million and a half and perhaps 2,000,000 men and women are employed today who would be unemployed if it were not for the work of the conference," says E. E. Hunt, secretary of the conference. "There has been no change in the industrial situation sufficiently large to explain this. It is due to the successful appeal to local responsibility and the sense of service. This pick-up may be temporary, but it is a hopeful sign."

The Federal highway act, passed by Congress November 2, makes available \$75,000,000, which is to be matched by a similar amount from the States. Governors of thirty States have reported that within ninety days more than 10,000 miles of highways, which will directly employ more than 150,000 men. Texas can employ 13,500 on an \$8,000,000 road-building job covering 1,000 miles within the next ninety days required. Georgia can provide 8,000 with jobs on a \$5,000,000 road. Indiana can employ 5,800 men. Michigan, 5,600; Ohio, 5,300; North Carolina, 5,000; Minnesota, 4,800; Louisiana, 4,500; South Dakota, 4,000; Mississippi, 4,000 each.

Municipal bond sales for public works since the call for the conference was issued have broken all records. North Dakota has sold \$1,000,000 bonds. Bonds have been recently sold in thirteen States, and more than \$34,000,000 have now been offered for sale. Besides \$10,000,000 in State bonds have been sold and an equal amount offered for sale.

The conference resolution on reclamation projects has resulted in introduction of a bill carrying an appropriation of \$20,000,000 to the reclamation department for construction projects now under way. Prompt passage of this bill will give employment to more than 32,000.

Twenty-seven States composing the northwestern section of the country showed the award of more building contracts in September than in any other month this year or in any September on record. The contemplated projects amount to \$218,850,600.

Says the report: "While this is probably due only in part to the effect of the conference call by the President, it is striking to notice the reclamation projects in these twenty-seven States, having a value of \$234,977,600—\$70,000,000 in excess of the record in September and more than \$100,000,000 in excess of the previous October. And there were 8,056 contracts awarded having a value of \$222,497,500."

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# EASTLAKE'S FATE MAY BE IN HANDS OF JURORS TODAY

Attorneys Will Present  
Final Arguments in  
Murder Trial.

By J. HAROLD KEEN.

MONTROSS, Va., Dec. 19.—Attacks on the defense set up by Roger D. Eastlake, charged with the murder of his wife, were continued today by the prosecution, as the trial, which began here last Thursday, neared an end.

Tomorrow, Judge Joseph W. Chinn, trial judge, is expected to instruct the jury, and the fate of the accused man may be in the hands of the jury late in the afternoon.

The first witness against Eastlake today was Mrs. C. A. Heinkeken, of Colonial Beach, a confidant of Mrs. Eastlake, who was killed at Colonial Beach September 30.

The witness said Mrs. Eastlake suffered a living death as the result of her husband's friendship with Miss Sarah E. Knox, a nurse, jointly accused of the crime, and his promises to end the affair.

Letters Are Introduced.  
Though the defense has claimed Eastlake discouraged alleged "advisers" to make after his promise to his wife, several letters were introduced written by him to Miss Knox as late as May 27 in which he spoke of coming meetings.

Miss Amelia Cantwell and E. Paul Drinker, both of Colonial Beach, during the rebuttal, testified that they noticed a "rather heavy beard" on Eastlake's chin shortly after the discovery of the murder. The defense in its presentation declared it would prove that on the morning of the murder their client had shaved himself as usual.

After a recess of one hour the attorneys for the prosecution and defense to prepare their arguments. Judge Chinn asked whether both sides were prepared to continue the trial tonight. Attorney William W. Butzner, who is defending the accused, was ready, but Commonwealth Attorney Mayo asked that the arguments be postponed until tomorrow, as he was "physically unable to continue." Mayo's request was granted.

Doctors on Stand.  
Charles W. Moss, of Richmond, will testify for the time of death by cut-throat. He will be followed by Attorney Thomas L. Hunter, prosecutor retained by the citizens of Colonial Beach.

It is impossible to determine accurately the time of death by the development of rigor mortis, according to Coroner J. Ramsay Nevitt and former Deputy Coroner Joseph R. Rogers, both of Washington, D. C., who were called today by the prosecution. Both physicians declared they could not time the death within four or six hours.

Eastlake, for the first time since the opening of the trial, appeared to be nervous. He moved restlessly in his seat. His sister, Mrs. Mabel Chambers, of Philadelphia, frequently comforted him. At the close of the session he said he was confident his innocence would be proven.

Judge Chinn announced last night that he would not sustain the objections made by the defense against admission of the bloody evidence, which they could not time the death within four or six hours.

# HARVEY FACTOR IN TRI-PARTITE LONDON PARLEY

Notified by Briand That  
France Abandons Na-  
val Demands.

PREMIERS DISCUSS  
REPARATION CRISIS

Lloyd George Believed to  
Favor Pan-European  
Conference.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Three-cornered negotiations, between spokesmen of Great Britain, France and Germany, destined to affect the economic and political future of Europe, have opened here, with America, through the part played by Ambassador George Harvey, giving the conference the semblance of a world character.

Premiers Lloyd George and Briand tackled the fundamentals immediately, not only discussing the technical and diplomatic features of the present reparations crisis, but also taking up on broad lines the question of Europe's economics.

German Expert Present.  
The conference gained special importance through the sudden presence in London of Dr. Walter Rathenau, German reparations expert, who is being held in readiness to present his views of official Germany. This is very significant because the German expert is virtually represented in the conference of the two entente premiers.

America's role became apparent when Briand summoned Ambassador Harvey and informed him that France had withdrawn her ten billion claim, agreeing with Secretary Hughes' ratio. Briand later similarly informing Premier Lloyd George.

Briand's move was timely because the matter of reparations had been injected into the question of economics, threatening Anglo-French harmony as regards a German policy and deterring Britain from making any reparations concessions to France as long as she secured a satisfactory armistice.

Modified French Position.  
Thus Briand's conference with Harvey on the eve of the Downing Street meeting signalled French moderation and the clearing of decks for the Anglo-French discussions.

The report of the experts will be presented to the two premiers tomorrow. As one of the results of this meeting Lloyd George hopes to bring about a pan-European conference which would include German and Russian delegates. At least the prime minister hopes to secure a financial agreement whereby the reparations schedule would be revised to ease the burden on Germany without reducing the receipts of France. Briand is expected to be willing to modify the method of Germany's payments, but unwilling to reduce the sum.

Attorney Held  
In EXTORTION CASE  
NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—John C. Oldmixon, Mrs. Amee Crocker Goudard's attorney, who is defending the \$100,000 alienation suit filed by Mrs. Elizabeth Schill, was held on an extortion charge for action by the grand jury by Magistrate Simms in Tombs court today. His bail of \$2,000 was continued.

Mrs. Schill testified that soon after she filed a suit asking damages from Mrs. Goudard for alleged alienation of her husband, Ostro, a detective, threat to blackmail. He then took her to Oldmixon's office, she said, where she "had to" sign papers releasing Mrs. Goudard from any action for damages.

OLDEST ALUMNUS  
OF PRINCETON DEAD  
TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 19.—Former Supreme Court Justice Bennett Van Syckle, 91 years old, died Monday morning at his home here, following a brief illness, of bronchial pneumonia. He was the oldest alumnus of Princeton University.

Justice retired from the bench in 1904 after serving on the court for thirty-five years. After his retirement he was pensioned by act of the legislature.

Queenstown Port  
FOR THREE LINERS  
NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—Three of the United States line's steamships bound to England and Germany hereafter will include Queenstown as a port of call, it was announced today. The three liners are the Panhandle State and the General State, which previously would direct to London, and the Potomac, which plies between New York and Bremen.

# Population Gain Crowds Work of Census Bureau

Director Suggests Need  
Of Curtailing Scope  
Of Inquiries.

Growth of population in the United States and expansion of industry have combined to crowd the work of the Bureau of the Census to such an extent that in his annual report to the Secretary of Commerce, Director Stuart suggests that it may become necessary, in the future, either to extend the period for the completion of the decennial census or to curtail the scope of the inquiries.

The magnitude of the work of taking the decennial census is set forth, in part, in the following statistics. Printing and distribution of 25,000,000,000 schedules of questions; organization and supervision of a force of 90,000 house-to-house canvassers employed to cover the whole country; these enumerators filled out 107,000,000 schedules of persons; 6,500,000 farm schedules; 450,000 manufacturing establishments; 22,000 mining and quarrying enterprises; 300,000,000 tabulating cards punched; the running of the census through electrical sorting and tabulating machines; the computation of approximately 500,000 percentages, averages and other rates in preparation of elaborate manuscript tables. The publication of twelve or more quarto volumes averaging 1,000 pages each.

Policemen Blinded  
By Necessity With  
LYE SHE THREW  
Two policemen attached to the Sixth precinct station were blinded, one probably permanently, when they received the contents of a can of lye in their faces, thrown at them by a negro, police say, at 732 Balls court northwest, last night. They were severely burned about the faces and hands. Both officers are married and have families.

Thought Permanently Blinded.  
Policeman C. W. Reid, 742 Morton street northwest, received lye in both eyes and is believed to have been permanently blinded. Policeman Speith, 212 Ninth street southeast, received a quantity in his right eye.

Carried Comrade In.  
Writing in pain, Reid fell to the pavement. Speith picked up his comrade and dashed across the alley into the Boyd drug store at Second and Massachusetts avenue northwest. Cleansing solutions were applied while they awaited the emergency ambulance.

Police from headquarters and the Sixth precinct station later broke down the front door of the Balls court home. Both negroes were lying in bed, while the negro was sitting at the table on the second floor, eating. The police were in charge of Headquarters Detectives Kelly and Scrivener, Precinct Detectives Brody and Ror of the Sixth precinct station, and Internal Revenue Officer C. L. Evans.

Entertain Little Hope.  
At an early hour this morning hospital officials entertained little hope for the recovery of Reid's sight. Speith's right eye was practically blind.

Policeman Reid has been attached to the Sixth precinct station since his appointment a year ago. Speith has been a member of the department for four years. He served nearly three years as a bicycle patrolman at the Seventh precinct station before he was transferred to the Sixth station.

The hospital treatment was rendered by Dr. Daniel L. Borden. Later in the evening, Dr. William T. Davis, eye specialist, was called.

Czech Compact  
Boon to Austria  
Custom Restrictions Lifted,  
And Conditions Resemble  
Free Trade.

VIENNA, Dec. 19.—The agreement reached between Austria and Czechoslovakia is almost a life saver for Austria.

The agreement provides for the lifting of passport and custom restrictions, approaching free trade. The Czechs benefit by having an accessible market for their foodstuffs, raw materials and heavy machinery, and they will also benefit by shipping their products via Vienna more readily.

Austria will get increased allowances of coal, foodstuffs and raw materials, and it will have an accessible market for its fine manufactured products. The rights of Czech who owned property in Austria prior to the war, and vice versa, will be respected. The movement of money between the two countries will be unrestricted.

# FRENCH ASK ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE RATIO OF AUXILIARY CRAFT BEFORE AGREEING TO CUT CAPITAL SHIP TONNAGE

TO HOLD THROTTLE  
Japs Hold Up Shantung  
Agreement by New  
Demands.

WANT NATIONALS  
IN ROAD'S OFFICES

Chinese Delegates Claim  
New Cabinet Will  
Unite Nation.

Expectations that the Chinese and Japanese delegations would reach an agreement on Shantung yesterday failed of consummation. For three hours the railway situation was under discussion. Then there came an official announcement that progress had been made.

What now is holding up the agreement is a demand by Japan that her nationals be admitted to administrative offices in the railroad management. The Japanese base this claim on the supposition that the Chinese themselves will not be able to guarantee an efficient service.

Will Unite Nation.  
Dr. Se, of the Chinese delegation, declared that the fall of the Peking government was due to internal questions and would not have the effect of weakening the authority of the Chinese delegation here. It is his view that the new cabinet may bring about the unification of China.

Baron Kato, who hoped to leave America after the end of the year, is now doubtful whether the work of the conference will be sufficiently near completion to enable him to get away within the next two weeks.

The sixteenth meeting of the Chinese and Japanese delegates relative to the question of Shantung took place in the morning. The Chinese delegation, which is housed in the Pan American Union Building this afternoon at 3 o'clock. The discussion centered around the proposal from the Japanese delegation that the French command of the Tientsin-Tsinanfu Railway be filled by Japanese nationals. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p. m. until 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Interest Is Intense.  
While the negotiations were in progress there was intense interest in official quarters over the developments following the resignation of the Chinese cabinet. The Chinese delegation gave out the following official statement:

"In reply to inquiries concerning recent news from China, it has been said by members of the Chinese delegation that the proceedings at the Washington conference have emphasized the necessity of unifying China to unify the country. It is the belief that the unification of the country is the sine qua non for an independent nation."

"Without the strong central government supported by the various strong parties in the country, it is impossible to avail ourselves of all the advantages to be derived from the principles adopted at the Washington conference. The central government as well as the strong men like Gen. Chang Tso-Lin, of Manchuria; Gen. Tsoo Kun, of Tientsin, and Gen. Wu-Pei-Fu, of Central China, and Dr. Sun-Yat-Sen, of South China, have been fully convinced of the necessity to co-operate and to work together."

Gen. Chang Tso-Lin, in Manchuria, naturally considers his region most likely to be affected by the decisions of the Washington conference. The Japanese delegation has delayed and postponed the deliberations with regard to China, and they are determinedly holding on to the privileges in Shantung.

Scraps of Paper.  
"It is this feeling that the interests of Manchuria might be bartered away, and the Chinese delegation is determined to do nothing to affect the future of those provinces. It must be recalled that the twenty-one demands were presented with an ultimatum, but since they affect the territorial and administrative autonomy of the Chinese government, unless the twenty-one demands are cancelled, the principles adopted by the Washington conference amount to nothing more than scraps of paper."

In an earnest attempt to get the co-operation of all the leaders in China, Gen. Chang Tso-Lin desires to unite all the forces of the country. There is very strong likelihood that the other leaders, especially Gen. Wu-Pei-Fu, who is popular and powerful in Central China, will rally to the call of patriotism. History is in the making and we do not know the final results, but of this we do know, that all the men in China, both high and low, are thinking about unification very seriously.

Represents All Chinas.  
"A few men of the cabinet might be changed, and even the President might think of retiring, but his retirement is only an indication of the general desire to sacrifice personal glory for national unity and welfare. In China public opinion runs so high that unless a leader gets the full support of the public, he cannot control the reins of the government for any length of time. In this movement in China one can easily see that the leaders are actuated by patriotic motives and they are willing to yield their positions to some acknowledged leader who has the support of the people."

The Chinese delegation at the Washington conference has the continued support of the people, and so whatever happens in China it will represent China in truth."

UNIONS SOLD  
OUT IS CLAIM

Fight Western Roads  
Plan of 'Farming Out'  
Repair Work.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—Shopcraft unions and maintenance of way organizations of Western roads "farming out" work have begun their fight before the Labor Board to determine whether or not they are to be classified as railroad employees with the right of redress through the board.

Due to the "farming out" of railroad repair and maintenance work to private contractors, union leaders declare that the board should "sell out" as organizations.

It is probable the arguments will continue for several days before a decision can be reached. According to union officials, contracts issued by the roads were subterfuges to reduce wages, private contractors not coming under the scope of the board's power to rule on this question.

HUGHES MESSAGE  
EFFECTIVE, SAYS  
WICKHAM STEED

London Editor Refers to  
Possibilities of Anglo-  
French Alliance.

By WICKHAM STEED.  
(Editor of London Times.)

Interest is equally divided between the situation in Washington, and the progress of Anglo-French negotiations in London. Up to Sunday evening the French delegation here had received no fresh instructions, but were heavily awaited. An extremely outspoken note from Secretary of State Hughes, which the American Ambassador in Paris probably had handed to M. Briand on Saturday afternoon, was a similar communication that Ambassador Harvey may have been instructed to make to him in London on Sunday night, certainly left the French government under no illusion as to the effect of the French naval proposals upon the American administration.

Hitherto the American press has handled the issue with commendable restraint, but unduly doing in the French proposals in a form compatible with the general scheme for the limitation of naval armaments might lead American writers to the conclusion that an unreserved public statement of the American standpoint would be helpful.

Goes to Grand Committee.  
The question has now been transferred from the naval disarmament committee of fifteen members to the grand naval committee, which all the principal delegates in a form compatible with the general scheme for the limitation of naval armaments might lead American writers to the conclusion that an unreserved public statement of the American standpoint would be helpful.

A friendly interchange of views took place during the week-end between some of the chief delegates. The French delegation has been helped to soften asperities and to prepare the way for harmonious discussions. Moreover, the leading French delegates may by this time have perceived how sorely they have been misled throughout the conference in regard to the degree in which America would be disposed unquestioningly to comply with French claims or suggestions. Provided that instructions from M. Briand's office in Paris are in accordance with the French proposals, the conference may therefore safely surmount the most dangerous episode that has hitherto marked its proceedings.

Britain May Cancel Debt.  
Pending developments here, the news from London is being eagerly scanned. A dispatch to one prominent American journal suggests that, in addition to a moratorium for German reparations, the British prime minister will submit to M. Briand the following general propositions:

1. England to forego her claim on the German indemnity, except in regard to services which Germany alone can render.  
2. Great Britain to cancel the French war debt, provided she receive an equivalent amount in German indemnity bonds, which she would also cancel.  
3. The Anglo-French entente to be recast in the form of an alliance, under which France would

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KLAN ASKED TO AID  
IN MURDER INQUIRY

TALK WITH HUGHES

Submarine Fleet Urged as  
Necessary to Coast  
Defense.

BRIAND'S ADVICE  
ALTERS SITUATION

British Continue Their  
Opposition to Under-  
sea Craft.

France will reduce her demand for a capital ship tonnage of 270,000 tons "under conditions."

Secretary of State Hughes was officially apprised of this fact late yesterday afternoon. Albert Sarraut, chairman of the French delegation; Ambassador Jules Jusserand; Vice Admiral de Bon and the French official interpreter conferred with him in his private office in the State Department. No outsiders were present. No statement was forthcoming after the meeting, but certain American and French sources were very distinctly hopeful following the conference.

Proceedings Kept Secret.  
Efforts to have the flat statements agreed to that progress had been made failed. Beyond explaining that a conference had been held, American sources refused to talk. The French stated that they had presented their case to Mr. Hughes. That was as far as they were willing to go.

Other conference circles were very much in the dark. It was accepted that there had been a general discussion of the unfortunate situation that has resulted from the action of the French in refusing to accept the capital ship ratio suggested by the American and British delegations. The French delegation, however, explained that they had followed out instructions from Paris. They had carefully explained that they wanted to bring their fleet up to the position that it would have occupied had it not been for the war. And they insisted that they had not defied the conference. They were at all times willing to compromise and to accept a ratio that would not endanger French national life. But they suggested that, after all, questions of ratio on the sea and were minor proposals at this time.

Committee Meets Tomorrow.  
There will be another meeting of the committee on naval armament, except the committee of fifteen, today at 11 o'clock. At that time the complete extent of the French delegation's official statement will be communicated. Until then official statements of the French delegation could be no complete understanding. France has no desire to tie up the conference, officials said. But she insists that she is entitled to consideration on every suggested proposition.

There is no real reason for suggested final disagreement at any point. But the French delegation, which originally resented the action of Secretary Hughes in calling directly to Premier Briand after the discussion with the Secretary late yesterday, agreed that it was entirely justified.

Recognizes Briand as Chief.  
An authoritative explanation was given, on behalf of the American delegation, of Secretary Hughes' action in calling instructions to Harvey directly to Premier Briand. The delegates still here were reported to be peeved at this apparent disregard of their authority as plenipotentiaries. As a matter of fact Mr. Hughes still recognizes Briand as the chief of the French delegation, and in view of his exchanges with the French premier prior to Briand's departure from Washington, the Secretary of State felt absolutely obligated to talk with Premier Briand, and not one else, on the crisis problems.

Prior to the receipt of the Briand cablegram the French delegation was prepared to reduce its claims to seven capital ships, which had begun to consider a maximum strength of seven, giving a tonnage of 245,000, the building of which would begin in ten years' time. This France could not be accused of backing out on the crisis problems.

Railroad Offers Objection.  
The British are not prepared to support the demand for even seven battleships and battle cruisers. Mr. Ralston has pointed out to the French that before the war France was content with a navy three times the strength of the British. He has argued that that standard should suffice now, especially as France is menaced by no one.

The objection of the British is not so much to capital ships that France might build in the ensuing ten or fifteen years, but to the proportionately strong submarine fleet which she would begin to build immediately.

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